



March 15, 2013

The Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) is pleased to announce the opportunity for schools/districts and community-based organizations to apply for a 21st Century Afterschool Program grant. The 21st Century Community Learning Centers (CCLC) is the result of the No Child Left Behind legislation passed by the U.S. Congress. The funding for this new grant cycle is contingent upon the availability of federal funds.

Eligibility for a 21st CCLC grant is determined when **40 percent of the students from an applicant school or a partnering school receive free and reduced-priced meals**. The application process will be competitive and must be submitted online using the OPI's E-grants System. **The OPI anticipates the application will be available on April 2, 2013.**

Organizations that do not have a Legal Entity (LE) number need to submit an Intent to Apply, Commitment to Partner, and Taxpayer Disclosure Statement in order to receive a login to complete the E-Grant application. The Intent to Apply, Commitment to Partner, and Taxpayer Disclosure Statement forms may be downloaded from Montana's 21st CCLC Web site: <http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/TitlePrgms/SafeSchools/21Century/index.html>. The forms need to be mailed to Mary Ellen Earnhardt, 21st CCLC Representative, Office of Public Instruction, PO Box 202501, Helena, MT 59620-2501, or faxed to (406) 444-2955. **The Intent to Apply, Commitment to Partner and Taxpayer Disclosure Statement forms must be postmarked or faxed by April 5, 2013.** (Please note that it can take up to two weeks for an LE number to be assigned).

Prior to completing the online application, applicants are strongly encouraged to pull together data and program plans in preparation for the competition. Below are nine points to consider in your pre-planning process:

1. A brief summary of how this project applies in terms of your school planning process;
2. The activities, in general terms, you plan to implement to establish a community-learning center;
3. Prioritization of activities including: STEM, Career/Technology education, Early Learning, Safe and Healthy Students, and program evaluation;
4. The extent to which you have evaluated the needs of your students and community;
5. The resources you have identified within your community;
6. The partnerships you have initiated or will initiate;
7. Your overall level of preparedness to implement the project;
8. Well-defined objectives that employ strategies; and
9. A sustainability plan.

A grant application webinar will be held on April 9, 2013. If you are interested in attending the webinar, please contact Amanda Domino, at adomino@mt.gov or (406) 444-1964.

The **E-grants application is due May 10, 2013**. The Montana 21st CCLC staff is available to provide any assistance necessary, and I wish you well in this competitive process.

Sincerely,

Mary Ellen Earnhardt
Education Program Representative
21st Century Community Learning Centers
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